



Myanmar Hope Christian Mission, Inc.

“You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving.” - Amy Carmichael

Spring 2019

Greetings

[Our apologies for the late arrival of our first quarter edition. We had hoped to release it early-to-mid February, but a recent bout of the flu set us back a bit.]

It’s hard to believe another year has gone by! So many great blessings were received last year, and we have some really big hopes and dreams for the coming year. One thing remains the same from year to year, though: **our appreciation for, and dependence upon, YOU, our partners in this Kingdom endeavor.**

It is through **YOU** that God is able to extend His Kingdom into rural and urban areas of Myanmar, establishing it in the lives of people and in places it otherwise would not go. It is not possible to say “THANK YOU” enough times to fully express our gratitude for your faithful prayers, financial commitments, *and your voice.*

Yes, your “voice.” When you share about the work of Myanmar Hope with the people in your own circle of influence, you are planting Kingdom seeds in their hearts. Who knows when and how those seeds will sprout and grow fruit? **God knows and God sees your good works, and He will reward you.** God bless you as we start this new year!

Hope Boarding School

Our students are busy studying for and taking their final exams. This is a very stressful time of year for them. The school year is almost finished, and now they are

being put to the test to see how well they can remember everything they have been taught over the previous months.

Please pray for them to do their best, to be focused, to study hard, and most of all, to be able to recall the information they need when they need it.

HBS Graduates and Higher Education

One of our core beliefs is that a good education is one of the primary means for escaping poverty. This is why we put so much focus on Hope Boarding School and our HBS students.

When we began HBS in 2010, we had no idea how our students would do in this regard. The average high school graduation rate in Myanmar hovers around the 30% mark. However, in the rural north-west, where most of our students are from, only about 25% of students ever make it to high school, let alone have a chance at graduating.

So when one of our students graduates from high school by passing their final matriculation exams either at the “A” level or the “B” level, it could almost be described as a miracle. Certainly God is involved in the process, but our students work really, really hard to try to pass.

Last school year both Miss Vah Nei Neng and Miss Ngai Nei Chong graduated from high school with distinction. They were awarded trophies at a prestigious ceremony at the International Business Center in Yangon. Vah Nei Neng is now helping at Hope Boarding School and Ngai

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Miss Vah Nei Neng passed Biology and Burmese Language with Distinction

Nei Chong is assisting at Hope Preschool. Both girls will be attending Dagon University when classes resume.

While we earnestly hope and pray that all of our students will pass their final exams (which are exceedingly difficult, by

the way), not all are able to. But those who do not pass are still miles ahead of their peers back in the villages.

At HBS they learn so much about God and the Bible, about life, leadership, health and hygiene, service, Christian unity, and how to really be the Church.

Many of our students will grow up to be leaders in their community and in their churches. Some already are!

Some of our students who do not pass their exams after finishing high school return to their villages and keep studying to retake the exams the following year. Several of them have subsequently passed and are now in college!

Here is the list of former HBS students who are now in college or university:

[Government Administration College](#)

1. **Mr Tong Cin Mang:** 2nd Year, Government Administration
[Dagon University](#)
2. **Miss Neng Khen Chin:** 2nd Year, English
3. **Miss Lhing Kho Nei:** 2nd Year, Bio-chemistry
4. **Miss Vah Nei Neng:** 1st Year, English
5. **Miss Ngai Nei Chong:** 1st Year, History
[Kalay University*](#)
6. **Mr Hao Gou Mang:** 2nd Year, Geography
7. **Mr Jang Min Lun:** 2nd Year, History
8. **Mr Lam Kho Tong:** 1st Year, English

* These are students who passed the exams after they returned to their home village.

Those of you who sponsored these students throughout their time at Hope Boarding School should feel a great sense of pride and mutual accomplishment! It is because you made the monthly financial sacrifice to pay for the education, food, clothing, medical, and housing for these young people that they were even able to be at Hope Boarding School, let alone pass high



Some of the children of Hope Preschool on a recent field trip

school and go on to college and university. You have changed their lives forever!

We cannot wait to see how God will use these young men and women to help establish and further His Kingdom in Myanmar. We humbly request that you keep them in your prayers as they struggle their way through until graduation.

To those who are sponsoring students in the lower grades, I hope this news gives you a renewed sense of commitment to continue supporting and praying for your students. You are truly changing their lives, their family's lives, and the lives of all they will impact in the future!

Hope Preschool

MaryAnn and I had the pleasure of attending a special Christmas program at Hope Preschool in which the children sang and danced and recited verses for us and all the parents and staff.

This year there were thirty-eight students in the preschool, and in total there have been two hundred twenty-one students enrolled since we began in 2010.

We also had a chance to sit down and speak with the preschool teachers and assistants, to find out what they thought about HPS, what their needs are, and what are their future plans and goals.

The teachers are Mrs. Niang Ngaih Kim, Miss Lan Nei Vah (Lucy), and the assistant is Miss Ngai Nei Chong. (Nei Nei Chong graduated from HBS/high

school last year and will begin her first year at Dagon University in Yangon very soon.)

The teachers keep track of the preschool students after they graduate from HPS and move into the government schools. Several of them are doing exceptionally well and are taking top marks in their classes.

This is very encouraging, as the students at the preschool come from some of the very poorest families in the area, and normally the poorest children perform the worst in the schools because of malnutrition and other poverty-related factors.

We also asked the teachers what the greatest needs of the school are. The primary need, they said, is for more space. They are eager to teach as many children as possible, and there is not enough room at our current facility to properly teach the children we have.

The children must be separated into groups according to age and ability. Some of the children attend the preschool for two years, and by the second year they are ready for more advanced material than the first year students. Trying to find space for the separate groups can sometimes be a challenge.

Another need is for more space for the children to run and play. Our tiny lot has become quite crowded over the years, as it used for the preschool as well as a ministry headquarters for the northwest district. A small garage was built to house the truck, and also the home of the property caretaker is taking

up space. All of this doesn't leave much room for the children to play outside.

Having enough teaching resources is always a need, they said, including colored paper for crafts and exercises, and so on.

The staff would also love to attend training themselves to better learn how to teach the children.

Miss Lucy and the other teachers and helpers are very passionate about their roles in shaping and educating the children under their care. They love them very much and they really desire to see them succeed in life.



Niang Ngaih Kim, Cho Chong, and Lucy

We all know how critically important a good education is for everyone, but especially for those trying to escape the chains of poverty. Getting children started out on a solid educational and spiritual foundation is one of the primary goals of Hope Preschool.

Please support Hope Preschool with your prayers, your influence, and your financial resources. Contact us today about becoming a partner/sponsor of Hope Preschool. If you would like to schedule a time to visit HPS and the villages and families supported by Hope Preschool, please contact us. Thank you, and God bless you.

East/West Garden

The East/West Garden continues to thrive and grow, thanks to your generous help. But did you know that the East/West Garden is not just a farm? It is also a training facility!

Recently, Palal contacted the Department of Agriculture and asked them to do some training on how to make organic fertilizer. They were very happy to oblige.

The people at the Ag Department shared that they have tried many times to organize training for the local farmers but were unable to make it happen. So when Palal contacted them, they were very excited to come and share their knowledge.

Because of Palal's wide-ranging influence in the area, over fifty farmers (including several pastors and elders) attended the training. The people from the Ag Department said they had never been able to gather so many people together for training like this, and so they were very thankful.

One result of this training is that more training has been requested by the farmers. It will be held in May, just before the next planting season. We expect an even greater turnout for that session.

The end result of these training sessions is that the local farmers will be educated on better and more effective farming methods, which should increase their crop yields, which will in turn increase their income. This income will then flow into the local economy, which will benefit even more people!

Growing the Farm

One of the items on our project wish list for 2019 is to expand the number of



Our tractor operator at the East/West Garden

acres under cultivation. A surveyor came to the farm and helped us to better know where we can expand. We can now safely expand ten more acres for cultivation. This is very rough ground with lots of trees and brush, but it produces well when cultivated. It costs about \$1,500.00 to clear and prepare one acre for cultivation. If you or someone you know can help us clear these acres, please let us know ASAP.

Another item on our project wish list is a barn for storing harvested crops and equipment. A barn will cost about \$5,000.00 to build. We had planned to make this need known in this newsletter, but one of our partners from Illinois called last week and offered to cover the entire cost himself! Praise God!

Thank you so much for your prayers and financial love gifts for this great project which is helping so many people.



Effective Microorganism Compost Training Session at the East/West Garden



New Pathway Home

The New Pathway Home for Widows continues to be a great blessing, not only for our residents and staff, but for the entire surrounding community!

MaryAnn and I visited the ladies several times during our recent visit, and each time we were so moved by their love and the gratefulness which they feel because of their home.



Weaving the traditional way

Palal asked if any of the ladies would like to share part of their story on video, and several of them volunteered to do so. It was a very emotional time for all.

It will take us a while to get the videos translated and edited, but when we do we will share them on Facebook and YouTube.

One of the residents has been weaving traditional Kuki cloths since she was fourteen years old. She demonstrated how she does this and it was utterly amazing. She does not use any patterns, and yet somehow she produces these very complex designs from memory. Her equipment is primitive by modern standards, but her work is highly regarded as some of the best weaving in the whole region.

Unfortunately her skill and craft is a dying art. Not many people know how to weave the cloths by hand anymore, and those that do are very old, like her.

When MaryAnn and I visited with her and she showed us her loom and how she uses it, she had just started working on a new shoulder bag. Palal showed us one like she was working on and said it would take her a couple of days. We were amazed, as it seemed to us something that would take weeks to accomplish.

Yet, when we arrived back for another visit several days later, she presented us with the bag fully finished, and gave it to Chuck as a gift which he will always cherish.

God bless all of you who have given love gifts for the NPH, and thank you especially for your prayers for the women, the staff, and the ministry.

New Hope Prison Outreach

In December 2018, Myanmar Hope received an incredible blessing for the New Hope Prison Outreach from West Side Christian Church in Springfield, Illinois.

West Side participated in a program called #16DaysOfChristmas by choosing a different mission organization every day for sixteen days to receive a financial gift. On day six they announced that the church would fund the construction of a building for our New Hope Prison outreach!



Images from the Construction at New Hope



Thank you, West Side Christian Church!

This is an wonderful gift that will impact families and prison inmates for many years to come. The new building will be used as a guest house for families visiting their relatives in the prison, as well as a home for the leaders of the ministry. The building will also have a large open area for worship services and meetings.

The wood and bamboo structure that we recently built will remain and will be used for overflow and for church services when necessary.



These family members will be visiting their relatives in the prison for the first time.

Another recent addition to the property was a new culvert and bridge over the deep ditch separating the property from the main road. Previously there was an old wooden bridge that was in really bad shape. Now there is a stone and concrete bridge that will last for many years into the future.

Thank you to West Side Christian Church in Springfield, Illinois, and to everyone who has prayed for and given to the New Hope Prison Outreach. May God bless all of you!

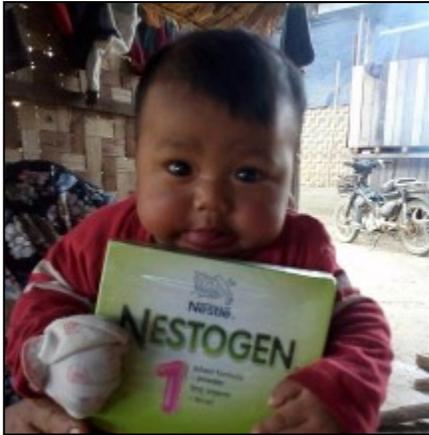
Support Programs

Myanmar Hope has been providing monthly support for pastors, poor families, and individuals living in extreme poverty ever since we began operations

in 2007. These programs are still ongoing and still much needed.

Palal receives requests for help continually, but unfortunately he must deny the vast majority of them as we simply do not have enough resources.

For example, Palal was recently approached by the grandmother of this baby, Mr. Let Len Cung:



Let Len Cung and his grandmother need help.

His father died in December, and his mother was so depressed and distraught that she abandoned her child and fled. The grandmother lives in extreme poverty and cannot afford to feed the child properly. She asked for Palal's help.



It is encouraging to us that some of the local churches are getting to the place where they can also help with benevolence gifts for poor families and individuals. However, the vast majority of people in and out of the church still live in very poor conditions themselves, and so our help is still much needed.

Unfortunately for the people in need, it is difficult for us to raise the necessary funds each month to cover the expenses of the program.

For the Family Support Program in particular, of the amount we send each month, **less than fifty percent of the funds are directly sponsored.** The rest of the funds must come out of our General Fund. Thank God for all of you who donate undesignated funds or designate them for "wherever the greatest need is." It is because of your gifts to our General Fund that we are able to send what we do for the families in need.

Pastor Support Program

The Pastor Support Program is in much better shape, thanks to the individuals and churches who have sponsored multiple pastors. In addition to food assistance for poor pastors and their families, your gifts have provided many of them with motorcycles, enabling them to greatly increase the range of their ministries.

There are many more pastors that could use help, but as of now Palal and the Pastoral Leadership Committee in Tamu have not requested additional support for any more pastors at this time.

If you would like to sponsor a poor family, widow, or disabled individual and help provide them with food and other needs on a monthly basis, please contact us. For about one dollar per day you can help put food on the table of a family living in extreme poverty!

***NOTE: There are still five pastors who greatly need a motorcycle. They cost \$800.00 each.**

December Trip Report

It would take an entire newsletter to describe the great visit that Chuck and MaryAnn Cherry were able to make in December and January. Since we have very limited space, though, a short report will have to do.

This trip was one that included many "firsts". They were able to travel north of Tamu to visit several remote villages



Pastor Seikhjojang and his wife, of Maingdaungphai Village, with their new motorcycle

for the first time.

They were able to share Christmas meals with several of the churches for the first time. They were able to visit the Homalin area for the first time, and they were able to travel north on the Chindwin River and visit even more remote villages for the first time.

Some of these villages have never had a westerner visit them, so it was special for them as well as for Chuck and MaryAnn.

There was a first for the Christians in the Homalin area as we were finally able to hold a conference for them. Up until now only a few of the believers could travel down to the conventions in Kalay and Tamu, as the trip from up north is long and dangerous. However,



Chuck, MaryAnn, and Palal on a Jungle River Adventure

since Chuck, MaryAnn, and Palal were able to fly into Homalin this year, the Christians organized a convention for the churches in the area. Over four hundred Christians from several denominations attended, and it was a wonderful time.

The next time you have a chance to talk to Chuck or MaryAnn, ask them to tell you about the “Jungle River Adventure” that they and Palal took part in as they made their way to and from some of the villages.

Christmas Meals Report

We are excited to report that 2018 was another record year for the annual Village Christmas Meals program! This year your gifts provided the meat for...

SEVENTY-SEVEN village or church Christmas Feasts!

One of the great things about this program, besides the fact that many poor families are blessed with meat at Christmas, is that it brings together Christians of all denominations to share together in the blessings of Christmas.



One of the cows purchased for a Christmas Meal

In the past, Christians from different denominations would not fellowship with one another. In some cases the walls between the denominations were so strong that these Christians would not even speak to one another—even within small villages, and sometimes within families.

Unfortunately this problem still exists in many areas, but Palal and MyHope have been working hard to break down these walls and to bring the church to-

gether.

One of the ways we have been doing that is through the Village Christmas Meals program. This year, several different denominational churches agreed to come together for Christmas celebrations and to fellowship with one another. Praise God!

Please pray for the people in these denominational churches. In many cases, the people in the congregations want to be in fellowship with other believers, regardless of denomination. However, there has been considerable opposition from denominational leaders at all levels. Many of them are afraid that people are trying to lure away their members into a different group or denomination, but that is the furthest thing from the truth.

Thankfully, year by year, many denominational leaders have witnessed the work of Palal and Myanmar Hope, and are coming alongside to share in the work and the blessings. This year at the meeting to arrange for the Village Christmas Meals, representatives from the following denominations or groups were present:

Kuki Christian, Anglican, Methodist, Roman Catholic, United Pentecostal, Assembly of God, Brethren, Thadou Baptist, Kuki Baptist, and Evangelical Baptist.

Thank you so much for your gifts for the VCM project. Because of you, thousands of people benefited directly with food, fellowship, and spiritual nourishment, and the walls separating Christians from one another continue to fall. Praise God!

Piglets Project

We currently have forty-nine families participating in our piglets projects, which was started in 2016 with help from IDES.

Each family selected receives a fe-

male piglet and some training (if necessary) on proper care and feeding. When the piglet grows and has her first litter, the family agrees to give one or two female piglets back to the project, to be given to other families. After that they are free to use the original pig and the piglets however they choose.



A widow with pigs from the Piglets Project

Unfortunately, not every family is able to follow through with their commitment. Last year some families had to sell their pigs to buy food. Also, a few of the pigs died last year from disease.

But even with all that, we still have forty-nine families in the program, and we now have eight piglets ready to be distributed to new families. Praise God!

Upcoming Trips

Our next scheduled trip is February/March 2020. We want to take a team of twenty people to attend our big convention in Tamu, so if you are interested in joining us, please let us know ASAP!

This is not an easy trip, so if you are frail or in poor health, it's probably not a good choice for you. And while we will be staying in hotels with hot water and indoor plumbing, there will be times you will have to use the “local facilities”. The food is good, but it is not American, so you won't be eating your normal fare.

If none of that scares you, then come along! Call MaryAnn Cherry at (217) 415-9187 or send an email to: info@myanmarhope.org.

2018 End of Year Report

We praise God for another great year made possible through your prayers and financial support. On the right side of this page you will see the breakdown of how all of the donations income was allocated.

We cannot publish the actual dollar amounts in this public newsletter for various reasons, but we do provide the numbers to our major supporting churches, donors, the I.R.S., our accounting firm, and anyone else with a legitimate request.

One reason we do not generally publish actual dollar amounts is that there are groups and individuals inside Myanmar who would use that information to spread false rumors and stir up dissension among the Christians. They do this out of jealousy or for other reasons unknown to us.

There are a couple of things to notice about this report. First, at the bottom you will see a line labeled Cash on Hand. This represents money in the checking or savings account at the end of the year. We normally have very little in there, as each month we send out what comes in. But in this case we received a substantial gift for the New Hope Prison Outreach, but the funds could not be spent until January, February, and March of this year. In fact, much of that money has now been spent on the new construction.

Another is the large discrepancy between the percentage of funds spent on Hope Boarding School related to the other ongoing projects. This reflects the funds received and spent on the new fourth floor construction on the girls' dormitory building, which is now their worship center.

Finally, please notice that the administrative expenses are again less than four percent of income. We do our best to keep admin expenses as low as possible in order to have the maximum amount of funds available to send for ministry projects. We have no paid staff, no offices, and very little equipment. MaryAnn and I do what we do as a labor of love for our brothers and sisters in Myanmar.

There may come a day when the burdens of operating Myanmar Hope are too great for us to do on a volunteer basis out of our home, but that day has not yet come. We know that the Lord will guide and provide when it does.

If you or your church's missions committee would like a copy of our financial report containing the actual dollar amounts, please send us a request at:

Myanmar Hope Christian Mission, Inc.
1104 206th St E
Spanaway, WA 98387

You may also email us at info@myanmarhope.org or call us at 217-415-9187. God bless you and thank you again for all you do!

Chuck and MaryAnn Cherry

Donations Income 2018 **100%**

Expenditures

Special Projects

| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| East / West Garden | 1.3% |
| New Pathway Home | 3.7% |
| Disaster Relief | 1.3% |
| Village Christmas Meals | 6.2% |
| Clean Water | 3.3% |
| New Hope Prison Ministry | 10.1% |
| Special Projects | 0.1% |
| Leadership Training | 6.7% |

Total Special Projects 32.7%

Ongoing Projects

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Hope Boarding School | 25.2% |
| Yangon HQ Operating Budget | 8.7% |
| Pastor Support | 6.7% |
| Family, Widow, and Disabled Support | 3.9% |
| Hope Preschool | 0.9% |
| Medical Relief | 0.5% |
| Ministry Travel | 3.7% |

Total Ongoing Projects 49.6%

Administrative

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| Fundraising | 1.1% |
| Accounting and Legal Fees | 0.3% |
| Telecommunications | 0.7% |
| Bank Charges and Wire Fees | 0.9% |
| Office Expenses | 0.4% |
| Hardware, Software, Online Presence | 0.4% |
| Miscellaneous | 0.0% |

Total Administrative 3.8%

Total Expenditures 86.1%

Cash on Hand 12/31/2018

| | |
|---|-------|
| Set aside for New Hope Prison Outreach Construction | 13.9% |
|---|-------|

Total Cash on Hand 13.9%

Total Expenses + Cash on Hand 100%

"You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving."
- Amy Carmichael



MyHope Newsletter

Spring 2019

Myanmar Hope Christian Mission, Inc.
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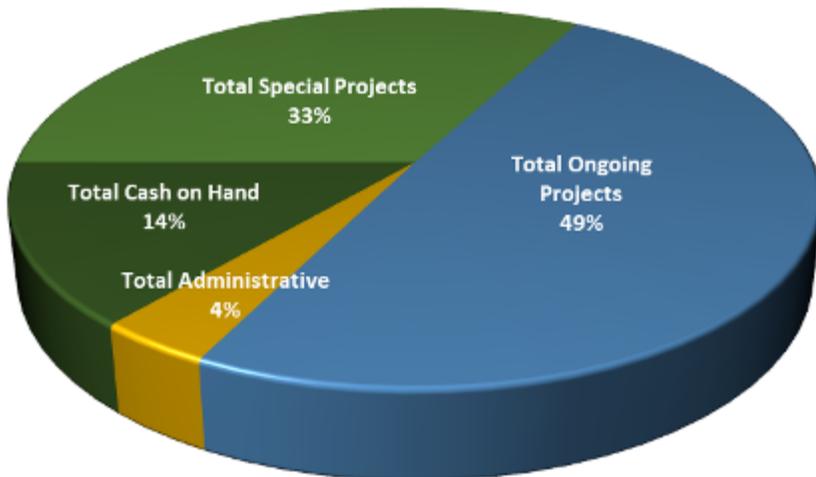
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Bringing the eternal hope of Jesus Christ to the people of Myanmar in a holistic manner
by addressing their spiritual, physical, emotional and educational needs

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2018 Year in Review—See page 7 for details



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- Monthly Sponsors for Family Support.....\$30
- Monthly Sponsors for New Pathway.....\$50
- A.C. Units for HBS\$600
- Cows for East/West Garden\$500
- Motorcycles for Pastors\$800
- Monthly Sponsors for Khongsai Family
Suggested Amount.....\$50
- Monthly Sponsors for General Fund
Suggested Amount.....\$50

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